

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/590,135  
Filing Date: August 17, 2006  
Applicant: Hideaki Kimata, et al.  
Group Art Unit: 2482  
Examiner: Christopher G. Findley  
Title: Picture Encoding Method, Picture Decoding Method,  
Picture Encoding Apparatus, Picture Decoding  
Apparatus, Picture Encoding Program, and Picture  
Decoding Program  
Attorney Docket: 5259-000071/US/NP

---

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 9, 2011, please amend the application as follows and consider the remarks set forth below.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 11 of this paper.